

## **ABSTRACT**

*This paper documents and analyzes a set of memorial groves sponsored by patriotic women's groups and planted along the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. Like the groves themselves, this story is part of a larger story about women planting trees along the Potomac, and this paper begins an investigation into the motivations and impacts of those efforts. Specifically it looks at documentary and material evidence – the original planting plans and the present day landscape – to understand what was originally planted and the current status of the memorials. By placing this physical evidence within the planning history and design of the parkway, it begins to identify the role the memorials would have played were they more intact than they are. More specifically, it argues that the memorial plantings add a more individual and personal layer to the commemorative role of the parkway, and this augments other aspects of the design that encourage social use and inhabitation of the landscape.*